



2009 Great Lakes Homeland Security Training Conference and Expo

May 5-7, 2009, DeVos Place, Grand Rapids, MI

Tuesday, May 5- General Session



Amanda Ripley

In 2005, Amanda covered Hurricanes Katrina and Rita from New Orleans, La., helping TIME win two National Magazine Awards. Two years earlier, she covered the European heat wave, which killed an estimated 50,000 people, from TIME's Paris bureau. On Sept. 11, 2001, Amanda was in New York City. That day and for years afterwards, she wrote extensively about the attacks, the victims and the recovery of the city and the survivors. To discuss her stories, Amanda has appeared on NBC's TODAY Show, ABC News, CNN, FOX News, C-Span, CNBC, MSNBC, NPR and dozens of international, national and local radio shows. What makes Amanda's work unusual is that she doesn't just explain what happened; she obsessively investigates why people do what they do, and how we can do better, combining science and practical lessons with literary storytelling.

Amanda has also been integrally involved in TIME's Person of the Year cover stories. She did extensive reporting for the 2001 Person of the Year profile of Rudy Giuliani and was the lead writer and reporter for TIME's 2002 People of the Year cover story on the FBI, WorldCom and Enron whistleblowers. In 2004, she traveled to India and Bangladesh to write the People of the Year cover profile of Bill and Melinda Gates.

Before joining TIME, Amanda covered the D.C. court system for Washington City Paper and reported on Capitol Hill for Congressional Quarterly. She has contributed to the New York Times Magazine, the Washington Monthly and Time Out. Amanda received a BA in Government from Cornell University. She has received awards from the Society of Professional Journalists, the Newswomen's Club of New York and the Washington Monthly, among others, and she is a two-time Livingston Award finalist. Amanda currently covers risk and human behavior for TIME and other publications in Washington, DC.



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Dr. Richard Carmona



In 2002, Dr. Richard Carmona was nominated by the President and unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate to become the 17th Surgeon General of the United States. Dr. Carmona was selected because of his extensive experience in public health, clinical sciences, health care management, preparedness, and his commitment to prevention as an effective means to improve public health and reduce health care costs, while improving the quality and quantity of life.

Dr. Carmona's path to becoming Surgeon General was characterized by numerous challenges throughout his life. Born to a poor Hispanic family in New York City, Dr. Carmona experienced homelessness, hunger, and health disparities during his youth. These experiences greatly sensitized him to the relationships among culture, health, education, and economic status, and shaped his future.

After dropping out of high school, Dr. Carmona enlisted in the US Army. While serving, he earned his General Equivalency Diploma and went on to become a combat-decorated Special Forces Vietnam veteran. After leaving active duty, he attended Bronx Community College of the City University of New York through an enrollment program for veterans. He then attended the University of California, San Francisco, where he received a BS and MD. At the University of California Medical School, Dr. Carmona was awarded the prestigious gold-headed cane as the top graduate.

Trained in general and vascular surgery, Dr. Carmona also completed a National Institutes of Health-sponsored fellowship in trauma, burns, and critical care. Dr. Carmona was then recruited jointly by the Tucson (Arizona) Medical Center and the University of Arizona to start and direct Arizona's first regional trauma care system. He went on to become the chairman of the State of Arizona Southern Regional Emergency Medical System, a professor of surgery, public health, and family and community medicine at the University of Arizona, and the Pima County Sheriff's Department surgeon and deputy sheriff. He is also a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Public health came as a second career after Dr. Carmona went back to graduate school while working in order to complete a Master's degree in Public Health at the University of Arizona. His interest in public health stemmed from the realization that most of his patients' illnesses and injuries were completely preventable.

Dr. Carmona has also served for over 20 years with the Pima County Sheriff's Department in Tucson, including as deputy sheriff, detective, SWAT team leader and department surgeon. He is one of the most highly decorated police officers in Arizona, and his numerous awards include the National Top Cop Award, the National SWAT Officer of the Year, and the National Tactical EMS Award. Dr. Carmona is a nationally recognized SWAT expert and has published extensively on SWAT training and tactics, forensics, and tactical emergency medical support. Dr. Carmona has also served as a medical director of police and fire departments and is a fully qualified peace officer with expertise in special operations and emergency preparedness, including weapons of mass destruction.

As Surgeon General, Dr. Carmona focused on prevention, preparedness, health disparities, health literacy, and global health to include health diplomacy. He also issued many landmark Surgeon General communications during his tenure, including the definitive Surgeon General's Report about the dangers of second-hand smoke.

Dr. Carmona has received numerous awards, decorations, and local and national recognitions for his achievements. A strong supporter of community service, he has served on community and national boards and provided leadership to many diverse organizations. Dr. Carmona currently serves as chairperson of the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease, Health and Wellness chairperson of the George Washington University Strategies to Overcome and Prevent (STOP) Obesity Alliance, chair of the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases' Childhood Influenza Immunization Coalition, chair of the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease, and is a member of the Board of Directors of Clorox, Healthline Networks, as well as the Vascular Disease Foundation, among others.

In 2006, Dr. Carmona successfully completed the statutory four-year term of the US Surgeon General and was named to the position of vice chairman for Canyon Ranch, the country's leading health and wellness company for over 25 years. He also serves as chief executive officer of the company's health division and oversees health strategy and policy for all Canyon Ranch businesses. He is President of the nonprofit Canyon Ranch Institute and the first Distinguished Professor of Public Health at the University of Arizona's Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions, the University of Minnesota awarded Dr. Carmona an honorary Doctor of Law degree, the highest award UMinn confers.